

## PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

## INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY


(Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

REC'D 04 JUL 2006

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Applicant's or agent's file reference CO/mc/2014	<b>FOR FURTHER ACTION</b>		See Form PCT/PEA/416
International application No. PCT/EP2004/013607	International filing date (day/month/year) 01.12.2004	Priority date (day/month/year) 31.03.2004	
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC INV. A63F3/02			
Applicant VICENTELLI, Claudio			
<p>1. This report is the international preliminary examination report, established by this International Preliminary Examining Authority under Article 35 and transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.</p> <p>2. This REPORT consists of a total of 5 sheets, including this cover sheet.</p> <p>3. This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, comprising:</p> <p>a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> sent to the applicant and to the International Bureau a total of 5 sheets, as follows:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis of this report and/or sheets containing rectifications authorized by this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions).</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> sheets which supersede earlier sheets, but which this Authority considers contain an amendment that goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed, as indicated in item 4 of Box No. I and the Supplemental Box.</p> <p>b. <input type="checkbox"/> (sent to the International Bureau only) a total of (indicate type and number of electronic carrier(s)) , containing a sequence listing and/or tables related thereto, in electronic form only, as indicated in the Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing (see Section 802 of the Administrative Instructions).</p>			
<p>4. This report contains indications relating to the following items:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. I Basis of the report</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. II Priority</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VI Certain documents cited</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application</p>			
Date of submission of the demand  23.09.2005		Date of completion of this report  03.07.2006	
Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:  European Patent Office D-80298 Munich Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465		Authorized officer  Turmo Peruga, R Telephone No. +49 89 2399-7471	



**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT  
ON PATENTABILITY**

International application No.  
PCT/EP2004/013607

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**Box No. I Basis of the report**

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1. With regard to the **language**, this report is based on the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
- ☐ This report is based on translations from the original language into the following language , which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of:
- ☐ international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b))
  - ☐ publication of the international application (under Rule 12.4)
  - ☐ international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3)
2. With regard to the **elements**\* of the international application, this report is based on *(replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report)*:

**Description, Pages**

2-11	as originally filed
1	received on 23.09.2005 with letter of 16.09.2005

**Claims, Numbers**

1-24	received on 23.09.2005 with letter of 16.09.2005
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**Drawings, Sheets**

1/3-3/3	as originally filed
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- ☐ a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) - see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing
3. ☒ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:
- ☐ the description, pages
  - ☒ the claims, Nos. 25-28
  - ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs
  - ☐ the sequence listing (*specify*):
  - ☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*):
4. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).
- ☐ the description, pages
  - ☐ the claims, Nos.
  - ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs
  - ☐ the sequence listing (*specify*):
  - ☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*):

\* If item 4 applies, some or all of these sheets may be marked "superseded."

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT  
ON PATENTABILITY**

International application No.  
PCT/EP2004/013607

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**Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**

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1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	1-24
	No: Claims	
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	1-24
	No: Claims	
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	1-24
	No: Claims	

2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7):

**see separate sheet**

**Re Item V**

**Reasoned statement with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability;  
citations and explanations supporting such statement**

1. Reference is made to the following documents:

D1: DE 202 08 736 U1

D2: US-A-2 970 388

D3: WO 03/063994 A

D4: US-A-4 226 421

2. Document **D4**, is regarded as being the closest prior art to the subject-matter of claim 1, and shows a magnetic game assembly comprising all the features set out in the preamble of claim 1.

The subject-matter of claim 1 differs from this known magnetic game assembly in that the playing pieces comprise: a first set of bar-shaped members having a length; a second set of ball-shaped members having a diameter; said bar-shaped members and said ball-shaped members being magnetically anchorable each other and to marked points of the game board, wherein the sum of the length of each bar member and the diameter of each ball member, corresponds to the pitch between the marked anchorage points on the playing surface of the game board.

By means of magnetically anchorable playing pieces in the form of bars and balls having geometrical dimensions co-related each other and to the pitch of the anchoring points, it is possible to have different and selective moves during the game, without negatively affecting the magnetic connection between the bar and the ball members, or without breaking up an articulated body formed by bars and balls, while allowing the movement of the same on the board.

Documents **D1 to D3** relate to educational or constructional devices in which use is made of magnetically anchorable components, such as planar or three dimensional members, or bar-shaped and ball-shaped members, merely to build various geometric structures. None of these documents disclose a plurality of marked anchorage point spaced apart by at least one pitch according to a patterned

disposition on the playing board.

The subject-matter of **claim 1** is therefore novel (Article 33(2) PCT) and inventive (Article 33(3) PCT).

3. **Claims 2 to 24** are dependent on claim 1 and as such also meet the requirements of the PCT with respect to novelty and inventive step.
4. The industrial applicability of **claims 1 to 24** is self-evident (Art. 33(4) PCT).

## CHALLENGE MAGNETIC GAME

### BACKGROUND INVENTION

This invention refers to a magnetic game designed to be played by two or more challengers, comprising a game board and a plurality of game members magnetically and selectively anchorable to one another and to the game board in correspondence with spaced apart anchoring points.

### STATE OF THE ART

Well known magnetic games, designed to allow the construction of reticular or grid structures, substantially comprise a set of elongated or bar shaped members, and a set of ball members which are magnetically connectable to the bar members according to any planar or spatial configuration or disposition; such magnetic games are known for example from WO-A-99/60583, DE-A-39 10 304 and US-A-2.970.388<sub>X</sub>, DE-A-202 08 763 and US-A-4.226.421.

Even though they allow the construction of reticular or grid structures of various shapes and sizes, these games however have a specific use, which is an end in itself.

None of these documents describes or suggests a different use of said magnetically anchorable members for other types of games, for example for games suitable for carrying out competitions between two or more players or challengers, in a way comparable to the conventional games of checkers and chess, or other similar games.

### OBJECTS OF THE INVENTION

Therefore, the main object of this invention is to provide a magnetic game allowing to carry out competitive actions between two or more challengers,

CLAIMS

1. A magnetic game assembly comprising:
- a game board (10) having a playing surface (13);
- a plurality of marked anchorage points (11) spaced apart by at least one
- 5 pitch (P) according to a patterned disposition on said playing surface (13); and
- a plurality of playing pieces (14, 15) suitable to be removably connected to
- the anchorage points of the game board, characterised in that said playing
- pieces comprise:
- a first set of bar-shaped members (14) having a length;
- 10 a second set of ball-shaped members (15) having a diameter;
- said bar-shaped members (14) and said ball-shaped members (15) being
- magnetically anchorable each other and to marked points (11) of the game
- board (10), to selectively construct at least a first and a second articulated body
- assembly (A, B), the sum of the length of each bar member (14) and the diame-
- 15 ter of each ball member (15), corresponding to the pitch (P) between the marked
- anchorage points (11) on the playing surface (13) of the game board (10).
2. The magnetic game according to claim 1, characterised in that the
- anchorage points (11) are disposed according to a reticular pattern disposition.
3. The magnetic game according to claim 2, characterised in that the
- 20 anchorage points (11) are disposed on intermeshing and parallelly arranged lin-
- ear paths.
4. The magnetic game according to claim 2, characterised in that the
- anchorage points (11) are disposed on intermeshing circular paths (21).
-

~~least part of the anchoring points (11) are spaced apart by at least one pitch (P).~~

~~5~~  
~~6.~~

The magnetic game according to claim 5, characterised in that the anchorage points (11) are spaced apart by different pitches (P1, P2, P3).

~~7.~~

~~The magnetic game according to claim 5, characterised in that the~~  
pitch (P) between the anchorage points (11) is equivalent to the length between the centres of two ball shaped members (15) magnetically anchored at both the ends of a bar shaped member (14) of the game.

8.

The magnetic game according to claim 7, characterised in that the pitch (P) between the anchorage points (11) is equivalent to the sum of the diameter (D) of the ball shaped members (15), and of the axial length of the bar shaped members (14), measured along their longitudinal axis

~~6~~  
~~9.~~

The magnetic game according to claim 1, characterised in that the game board (10) has a layered structure comprising an internal layer (16) of magnetic material.

~~7~~  
~~10.~~

The magnetic game according to claim 1, characterised in that the game board (10) consists of a sheet of magnetic material.

~~8~~  
~~11.~~

The magnetic game according to claim 10, characterised in that the game board (10) consists of a sheet of ferromagnetic material.

~~9~~  
~~12.~~

The magnetic game according to claim 10, characterised in that the game board (10) consists of a plastic sheet material comprising a ferromagnetic filler.

~~13.~~

~~The magnetic game according to claim 1, characterised in that the anchorage points (11) consist of magnet anchorage points (11) on the playing surface (13).~~



14

 $\frac{10}{\sqrt{14}}$ 

The magnetic game according to claim  $\frac{1}{\sqrt{13}}$ , characterised in that the marked anchorage points (11) consist of a plurality of holes on the upper playing surface (13) of the game board (10).

 $\frac{11}{\sqrt{15}}$ 

5 The magnetic game according to claim  $\frac{1}{\sqrt{13}}$  characterised in that the marked anchorage points (11) consist of a plurality of printed markings.

 $\frac{12}{\sqrt{16}}$ 

The magnetic game according to claim 1, characterised in that the playing surface of the game board (10) comprises different game areas and/or zones (12, 13).

 $\frac{13}{\sqrt{17}}$ 

10 The magnetic game according to claim 1, characterised in that the playing surface of the game board (10) comprises markings (11') indicative of articulated body assemblies (A, B) the initial positions of the game members (14'), extending along at least two opposite edges of the same game board (10).

 $\frac{14}{\sqrt{18}}$ 

15 The magnetic game according to claim 1, characterised by comprising supplemental game members (14', 15') positionable in different anchorage points (11) on the game board (10).

 $\frac{15}{\sqrt{19}}$ 

The magnetic game according to claim 1 characterised in that the game board (10) comprises permanent magnets in correspondence with the marked anchorage points (11).

 $\frac{16}{\sqrt{20}}$ 

20 The magnetic game according to claim 1, characterised in that the game board (10) comprises ferromagnetic inserts in correspondence with the anchorage points (11).

 $\frac{17}{\sqrt{21}}$ 

The magnetic game according to claim 1, characterised in that each of the bar and/or ball shaped ~~game~~ members (14, 15) consists of a magnet.

15

<sup>18</sup>  
~~√22.~~

The magnetic game according to claim 1, characterised in that each of the bar and/or ball shaped game members (14, 15) comprises at least one magnet.

<sup>19</sup>  
~~√23.~~

5 The magnetic game according to claim 1, characterised in that each of the elongated bar shaped members (14, 14') comprises at least one magnet and a ferromagnetic member.

<sup>20</sup>  
~~√24.~~

The magnetic game according to claim <sup>19</sup>~~√23~~, characterised in that each of the bar shaped members (14, 14') comprises a first and a second magnet and an intermediate spacing member.

10

<sup>21</sup>  
~~√25.~~

The magnetic game according to claim <sup>20</sup>~~√24~~, characterised in that the intermediate spacing member is of ferromagnetic material.

<sup>22</sup>  
~~√26.~~

The magnetic game according to claim <sup>20</sup>~~√24~~, characterised in that the intermediate spacing member is of non-magnetic material.

<sup>23</sup>  
~~√27.~~

15 The magnetic game according to claim 1, characterised in that the ball-shaped members (15) have a diameter larger than the cross dimensions of the bar shaped members (14, 14').

<sup>24</sup>  
~~√28.~~

The magnetic game according to claim 1, characterised in that one of the game members (14, 15) comprises at least one magnet, and the other one of the game members (14, 15) comprises a ferromagnetic material.